

Appl. No. 10/663,739
Amendment dated: May 5, 2004
Reply to OA of: February 6, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1(currently amended). A popcorn apparatus ~~comprised of~~ comprising:
a kettle having a contained space inside and a lipped rim along the circumference of the opening;
a lid consisting of a first lid member and a second lid member; the first lid member has a latch fixture and a handle mount; said latch fixture capable of engagement onto said lipped rim of said kettle;
a stirring mechanism consisting of a crank rod disposed on said lid and a mixing rod extending into said contained space inside said kettle;
a grip handle situated on said handle mount of said lid, wherein said grip handle has an internally disposed actuation rod and a press section is formed on said actuation rod, and the opposite extremity extends downward from said grip handle; said handle mount has a first latch component; said latch fixture on said lid and said first latch component both engage said lipped rim of said kettle, thereby securing said lid into position; said press section of said grip handle actuation rod is operated such that said actuation rod impels said first latch component and releases it from the engaged state to allow the removal of said lid; and
~~said structure enables wherein~~ the engagement of said latch fixture built into said lid onto said lipped rim of said kettle ~~to secure~~ secures said lid in position.

Claim 2(canceled).

3(original). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second lid member has a second latch component.

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Claim 4(canceled).

5(original). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first lid member has a reticulation formed in it and a transparent hood is disposed in said reticulation.

6(original). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said handle mount has an indentation formed at its center and square-shaped protrusions jutting from its outer sides.

7(currently amended). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said handle mount has a breach facing outward in the form of an opening and another catch slot facing the opposite direction of said opening.

8(original). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said handle mount catch slot consists of a first catch slot and a second catch slot that straddle two sides of said latch fixture; one extremity of said first latch component reaches horizontally in a bend to the rear of said first catch slot, transitioning into an inverted hook that curves and extends into said second catch slot, enabling said inverted hook to become situated at the anterior extent of the entrance of said slot-shaped latch fixture, said inverted hook and said latch fixture both engaged onto said lipped rim along the circumference of said kettle.

9(currently amended). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein disposed between said first latch component at the lower portion of said handle mount and said handle mount is an elastic member.

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10(original). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said elastic member is guided and positioned by a protruding member on said first latch component.

11(currently amended). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said first latch component consists of hinge tabs disposed at its two sides that are conjoined to hinge tabs extending downward from the two sides of said handle mount via a pin that is pivotably situated at the lower extent of said handle mount.

12(currently amended). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said second latch component of said second lid member has a knob disposed on its upper extent.

13(original). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said knob has retaining groove formed on it.

14(original). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second lid member has air holes radiating outward from the lower extent of its cover surface near the curve of the circumference.

15(original). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said stirring mechanism consists of a sleeve seat on the upper extent of said first lid member and a tubular shaft movably situated in said sleeve seat, and there is the horizontally disposed revolvable said crank rod at one extremity of said tubular shaft and said mixing rod fastened to the other extremity.

16(original). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said second lid member can be raised up such that said knob retaining groove is docked into place on said stirring mechanism tubular shaft.

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17(original). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said knob is by means of its said retaining groove docked into place on an obtruding fixing member of said tubular shaft.

18(currently amended). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said actuation rod inside said grip handle is loaded by an elastic component inside said grip handle.

19(currently amended). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein a check member extends from the lower extremity of said grip handle and a push section projects from one side of said check member.

20(original). A popcorn apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said grip handle has an insertion seat at its lower extent that is situated against said handle mount in said first lid member.